

Friday, April 1, 2011

Sam Drzymala: 202-226-4661 (o), 202-674-0594 (c)

Sara Howard: 314-962-1523 (o), 314-650-3286 (c)

FAA Reauthorization Bill Slashes Funds for St. Louis Midwest China Hub Effort

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – In response to job-slashing cuts in the GOP Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization bill, which will threaten the St. Louis Lambert Midwest China Hub project, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) issued the following statement:

“Because of the Midwest China Hub project St. Louis is poised to become a central player in the global economy.□ It means jobs and economic activity that our region desperately needs.□

□

“But none of that seems to matter to some of my Republican colleagues who are dead-set on taking a slash-and-burn approach to our budget, no matter what the cost to jobs, businesses and families in St. Louis and other communities across the country.

□

“Everyone agrees we have to find places to eliminate waste and tighten our belts.□ But slashing programs that create jobs is a backwards approach that will hurt St. Louis’s economy, just as we are about to take off.

□

“We cannot let rigid ideology dictate policies that could reverse our fragile recovery.□ Instead, let’s come together and find solutions that create jobs – not cut them.”

The FAA Reauthorization, currently being debated by the House of Representatives, includes provisions that will cut Missouri’s share of federal Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds [by more than \\$2 million](#)

. AIP grants are critical to St. Louis’s efforts to prepare Lambert Airport to serve as the Midwest China Hub -- and are the only source of funding for key elements, such as apron and taxiing work in the area surrounding Lambert’s largest hangar.

In addition to cuts that might affect the Midwest China Hub project, the FAA Reauthorization bill includes language that strips already approved safety regulations that were put in place in the wake of recent airline crashes that killed hundreds of people – a step that Captain Chelsey

“Sully” Sullenberger, pilot of the “Miracle on the Hudson” said “will put the lives of the flying public at risk.” And the bill would gut workers’ rights, making it harder for workers to exercise their Constitutional right to form a union.

“Scapegoating American working families is not a responsible solution to any problem,” said Carnahan.

“It’s clear that whether you’re in Wisconsin or Washington, all this budget talk is just a thin disguise for their real goal: attacking the rights of workers who helped build the American middle class and make this country great.”

□

###